

43642 to 43671—Continued.

ments; it is an excellent fuel. The bark is made into ropes and the fiber is used for calking boats. The fruits are succulent and mucilaginous and when young are eaten as vegetables or pickled. They have also been employed as pectoral medicines. (Adapted from *Maiden, Useful Native Plants of Australia*, pp. 19, 165, 407, 620, 639, and from *Gamble, Manual of Indian Timbers*, p. 270.)

43655. GENISTA RAETAM Forsk. Fabaceæ.

Retem.

(*Retama raetam* Webb.)

A simple-leaved shrub, from 1 to 3 meters in height, found everywhere on the sand dunes in various places in Egypt; also in Tunis, Algeria, etc. It is densely branched, and the leaves are about 5 mm. long. The sessile white flowers, one to five in a cluster, are about a centimeter long; the pods are inflated and abruptly beaked. The bitter roots are made into a decoction which is used by the Arabs as a heart stimulant. The plant, after maceration in water, is applied to wounds as a curative. (Adapted from *Forskål, Flora Aegyptico-Arabica*, p. 214, and from *Muschler, Manual Flora of Egypt*, vol. 1, p. 473.)

43656. Gmelina arborea Roxb. Verbenaceæ.

Gumhâr.

A large tree, occurring over a large part of India, but nowhere plentiful, being found up to 5,000 feet altitude in moist places. It reaches a height of over 100 feet and a diameter of about 5 feet and is found in deciduous forests in moist, fertile valleys. It has smooth gray bark and loses its leaves in hot weather. While the leaves are off, the flowers appear, followed a little later by the new leaves. The wood is yellowish or white, not very hard, but light and strong, with a handsome luster. As it is easily worked and takes varnish well, it is used for dugout canoes, furniture, carriages, toys, dolls, etc. In Madras the juice of the root is used in cases of dysentery. The tree is often planted in avenues and can readily be raised from seeds. (Adapted from *Rodger, Forest Bulletin (India) No. 16, 1913.*)

43657. Jatropha curcas L. Euphorbiaceæ.

A large shrub or tree, up to 15 feet in height, found throughout tropical America and Africa. It has long-petioled leaves, somewhat three to five lobed, like the English ivy. The flowers are small and yellowish green, occurring in many-flowered cymes. From the seeds there is obtained by hot pressing an oil of great commercial value. Medicinally it is similar in its action to croton oil, but is a milder laxative. Large quantities are imported into Europe for soap manufacture and for lighting purposes. It is said to be especially used in the manufacture of a transparent soap for dressing woolen cloths. As a drying oil it is also very valuable. The chief supply of this oil (*Oleum infernale*) now comes from the Cape Verde Islands, where the Portuguese Government is making large plantations of *purgueira*, as it is known. (Adapted from *Bailey, Standard Cyclopædia of Horticulture*, vol. 3, p. 1720, and from the *Bulletin of the Bureau of Agricultural Intelligence*, p. 278, April, 1911.)

43658. Kalanchoe marmorata Baker. Crassulaceæ.

(*K. grandiflora* A. Rich.)

A very stout low-branching shrub, native to the mountains of Abyssinia. The oval succulent leaves are pale green, blotched with purple; the young leaves are orange-green with blood-red spots; all of the leaves are crenate.